

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 OIC-02

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INFO SECDEF WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ICRC, PARM, PFOR

SUBJ: DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW-
WEEKLY REPORT MAY 2 - 6, 1977

SUMMARY: CONFERENCE WORK CONTINUES TO PROGRESS WITH
PROSPECT THAT MAIN COMMITTEE WORK WILL BE COMPLETED
ON SCHEDULE BY MAY 14. END SUMMARY

1. COMMITTEE I WORKING GROUPS COMPLETED WORK ON INQUIRY
COMMISSION AND ALTERNATIVE PROVISIONS SENT TO THE
COMMITTEE PLENARY FOR VOTE. WORKING GROUP ALSO
ADOPTED 18 FINAL ARTICLES BY CONSENSUS (ARTICLES 80-84
AND 86-90 OF PROTOCOL I; ARTICLES 40-47 OF PROTOCOL
II). A DELICATE COMPROMISE PREAMBLE (WHICH INCLUDES
A REFERENCE TO THE APPLICABILITY OF THE PROTOCOLS
"WITHOUT ANY ADVERSE DISTINCTION BASED ON THE LEGITI-
MACY OF THE USE OF FORCE.") WAS ACHIEVED IN AN INFORMAL
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WORKING GROUP. CONSENSUS WAS NOT ACHIEVED IN THE WORK-
ING GROUP (DUE TO FRENCH AND MEXICAN RESISTANCE
AND OPPOSITION FROM SOME ARAB/AFRICAN COUNTRIES THAT
WERE NOT INFORMED OF THE LAST MINUTE COMPROMISE), AND
PREAMBLE MUST BE VOTED UPON IN COMMITTEE PLENARY. WORK
REMAINS ON CONTROVERSIAL ARTICLES INCLUDING RESER-
VATIONS, MEXICAN PROPOSAL ON WEAPONS REVIEW COMMITTEE,

AND PHILIPPINE PROPOSAL TO CONSIDER USE OF CERTAIN WEAPONS AS A GRAVE BREACH.

2. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CONFERENCE HISTORY POLITICAL FACTORS AFFECTED COMMITTEE II ACTION. IN CONNECTION WITH A PROPOSAL BY ZAIRE TO ADOPT TWO DIAGONAL RED BANDS ON A YELLOW GROUND AS THE INTERNATIONAL DISTINCTIVE SIGN OF CIVIL DEFENSE, ARABS AND MOST AFRICAN DELEGATIONS LINED UP AGAINST WESTERN AND COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS WHO FAVORED BLUE TRIANGLE ON AN ORANGE GROUND PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED BY TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE. AFTER NUMEROUS PROCEDURAL WRANGLES ZAIRE PROPOSAL WAS REJECTED BY A VOTE OF 28-31 (US) WITH 7 ABSTENTIONS. CIVIL DEFENSE WORKING GROUP HAS PRODUCED TEXTS FOR ALL CIVIL DEFENSE ARTICLES BUT HAS NOT YET ACHIEVED CONSENSUS ON CONDITIONS FOR PROTECTION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL OF CIVIL DEFENSE UNITS OR WHETHER CIVILIAN CIVIL DEFENSE PERSONNEL MAY BE ARMED. IT APPEARS PROBABLE THAT THE WORKING GROUP WILL RECOMMEND THAT CD PERSONNEL MAY BE ARMED WITH LIGHT INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS FOR SELF DEFENSE OR FOR MAINTENANCE OF ORDER. IN AREAS WHERE LAND FIGHTING IS TAKING PLACE PROTECTION WILL NOT BE EFFECTIVE UNLESS ARMS ARE LIMITED TO HAND GUNS SUCH AS PISTOLS OR REVOLVERS. ON MILITARY UNITS, A FORMULA CLOSE TO THAT OF THE BONN FALL BACK POSITION SEEMS TO BE EMERGING. PROTECTION WILL BE ACCORDED ONLY TO MILITARY PERSONNEL PERMANENTLY AND EXCLUSIVELY ASSIGNED TO CD DUTIES WHO ARE CLEARLY DISTINGUISHABLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FROM COMBATANTS BY A PROMINENT DISPLAY OF THE CIVIL DEFENSE SIGN. SUCH PERSONNEL MUST BE PROHIBITED FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE HOSTILITIES AND WOULD BE PRISONERS OF WAR WHEN CAPTURED. AREA OF REMAINING DISAGREEMENT IS WHETHER ASSIGNMENT TO CD DUTIES MUST BE FOR DURATION OF CONFLICT, OR FOR SOME FINITE PERIOD. ANOTHER AREA OF DISAGREEMENT CENTERS ABOUT EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL THAT MILITARY CIVIL DEFENSE PERSONNEL NOT BE PERMITTED TO SERVE IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY. THE WORKING GROUP ON RELIEF IN PROTOCOL II PRODUCED A TEXT FOR THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF ARTICLE 33 (RELIEF ACTIONS) WHICH IS SIMILAR TO THE CORRESPONDING PARAGRAPH IN THE RELIEF ACTIONS ARTICLE OF PROTOCOL I. RELIEF SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN SUBJECT TO CONSENT OF THE PARTY OR PARTIES CONCERNED. CONSENSUS APPEARS NEAR ON REMAINING PROCEDURAL PROVISIONS OF THE ARTICLE. A FIRST PARAGRAPH OF ARTICLE 34 (RECORDING AND INFORMATION) PROVIDING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF INFORMATION BUREAU WAS ADOPTED, AND THE PROCEDURAL PROVISIONS PRESENT NO

PROBLEM. ARTICLE 35 (NATIONAL RED CROSS AND OTHER RELIEF SOCIETIES) CONCERNS PRINCIPLES GOVERNING CONDUCT OF RELIEF. THE GROUP REPORTED AN ARTICLE, WITH BRACKETED ALTERNATIVES, ONE VERY GENERAL AND THE OTHER (U.S. POSITION) LINKED TO PRINCIPLES ESTABLISHED IN THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCES.

3. TOWARD THE CLOSE OF THEIR WORK, COMMITTEE III PROGRESS HAS BEEN SLOWED SOMEWHAT . ARTICLES ON THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN (67) AND CHILDREN (68) HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY WORKING GROUP CONSENSUS AND ARE AWAITING COMMITTEE ACTION. THE EVACUATION OF CHILDREN ARTICLE (69) PROMPTED LENGTHY DEBATE AND DISCUSSION MOSTLY INVOLVING MATTERS OF DETAIL, NOT SUBSTANCE. MAIN ISSUE OF EVACUATION FOR REASONS OF SAFETY WAS RESOLVED BY PROHIBITING SUCH EVACUATION FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BUT PERMITTING IT OTHERWISE. ARTICLE 69 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPECIFICALLY DOES NOT APPLY TO EVACUATION OF A PARTY'S OWN NATIONALS. A NEW SPECIAL SIGN FOR INSTALLATIONS CONTAINING DANGEROUS FORCES (ARTICLE 49) WAS ADOPTED

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BY THE WORKING GROUP. IT CONSISTS OF THREE BRIGHT ORANGE CIRCLES OF EQUAL SIZE, ON THE SAME AXIS, SPACED ONE CIRCLE'S RADIUS APART. WORKING GROUP WILL CONTINUE WITH A FEW ARTICLES AND ISSUES FROM PROTOCOL II (ARTICLE 21, PERFIDY; ARTICLE 32, PROTECTION OF CHILDREN; AND REPRISALS). IT WILL ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE ALL ISSUES BEFORE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD EARLY NEXT WEEK.

4. THERE CONTINUES TO BE MORE ACTIVITY THAN PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED IN THE AD HOC COMMITTEE WITH MEETINGS OF MAIN COMMITTEE, THE WORKING GROUP AND SUB-GROUPS. THE MEXICAN PROPOSAL (ARTICLE 86 BIS) FOR ESTABLISHING A COMMITTEE OF PARTIES TO PROTOCOL I TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO RESTRICTIONS OR PROHIBITIONS ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE PROCEDURAL AS WELL AS SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE COMMITTEE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A LIAISON GROUP MEETING TO DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR MAY 9, EASTERN BLOC STRONGLY OPPOSES THE PROPOSED ARTICLE AS DO MOST WESTERN STATES. MOST SUBSTANTIVE WORK DURING THE WEEK HAS BEEN ON LAND MINE WARFARE, AND THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS ON THIS COMPLEX SUBJECT. CONSENSUS HAS BEEN REACHED ON NON-DETECTABLE FRAGMENTS PROPOSAL. INCENDIARIES WILL BE DISCUSSED NEXT WEEK.SORENSEN

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